

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



Christal Ferree



Barbara Jacob



Ward 6 – Newsletter

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

A Message from Steve

Tuesday's study session was pretty much budget-centric. The council voted to move forward with the framework for what will continue to be a work in progress as we move towards a balanced budget by the end of June. It was the will of the council to offer to the City Manager and his staff some general direction that brings the budget into balance. While I voted with the rest of the council in support of the framework, it is my belief that prior to final adoption, more changes will need to be incorporated into what will become the final product. My affirmative vote ensured that I can bring the discussion back prior to the adoption of the budget.

A few examples: first, the framework does not include any revenues from the sale of land. We already have an RFP out on the street to sell a potentially lucrative parcel out on I-19. I don't believe it's wise to ignore the revenue we will more than likely receive in FY'12 as a result of that sale. I have asked the City Manager for the appraised value and/or minimum acceptable bid for that parcel. If we include those revenues in our forecasting, we can save jobs and/or services that this community has asked for. Also, the framework we adopted Tuesday projects revenue growth at \$12.5 million over last fiscal year. While that is maybe not an overly aggressive projection, if we overshoot the mark, it will mean mid-year adjustments and unanticipated reductions. We've done that two years in a row. If we can avoid it this time around, I believe we will all be better served by the process. I'll be looking at an alternate revenue projection as a piece of how the budget puzzle fits together.

The transit subsidy was not reduced in the framework we adopted. While I understand the sensitivity to trying to maintain transit jobs, if we have unproductive routes, those need to be addressed so we can maintain those that are productively serving our neighbors who rely on the bus service in order to get to work and around town. The subsidy is in excess of \$37 million. I believe that the transit subsidy needs to be reduced through elimination of unproductive routes and general streamlining. For the past 2 years we have successfully cut and streamlined all city departments but transit has remained unchanged. Why should the transit department not be held to the same standard? Why would we hold the City workers and departments to a higher standard of efficiency and salary cutbacks than the transit department? I will be looking at that as a source for reworking the framework we adopted today.





Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police
Department

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

Mayor & Council
Comment Line

791-4700

Neighborhood
Resources

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

Pima County Animal
Control

243-5900

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus
Hotline

243-7999

Environment
Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish
628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

Also a part of the framework is carrying forward yet again a restructuring of the Certificates of Participation debt we now owe. While this can save up to \$9.5 million for the FY'12 budget, it really amounts to nothing more than taking out a loan with which to pay our credit card bill. It kicks the can down the road and will end up costing the taxpayers more money in the long run as we extend the debt. I'm not sure restructuring the entire debt load is the best way to balance our budget.

There are a few other areas I will be looking at while putting together an alternate proposal; increased % budget reductions across the board by department, reworking the "security alarm fee" proposal, and some others. The bottom line is that today we passed along to the City Manager and his staff the message that we are not going to consider the Renter's Tax, the Advertising Tax, or any increases in the Business License Fee. Those are positive steps that ensure that the community needs are being met. The remainder needs more work. I applaud both the City Staff and the rest of the council for having gotten this far. We're closing in on a finished product, all of us working to minimize the impact on provision of city services while making reasonable fiscal decisions in a very difficult economy.

The week had some other bright spots as well. One was the series of reports I received from Gem and Mineral Show vendors that this was the best year they've had in the last 3 years. Clearly buyers were out in force replenishing their stock after having allowed them to become depleted in recent years. Hotel rooms were full, cars were being rented, restaurants were busy and after an initial chilly spell, the weather was made to order by the Visitor's Bureau. The shows will certainly be back next spring.

On Monday of this week applications were made available for the Downtown Tucson Partnership Facade Improvement Program. This is the start of a selection process that will end with the award of four or five buildings in the downtown area being partially funded to receive facelifts. The funding is 100% from the private sector. No taxpayer dollars involved - to the great credit of those who are helping the effort. The selections will be made by April 8th, and shortly thereafter funds will begin to flow out into the community to kick start this important work. If you own a small business in the downtown area, check out the link at <http://downtowntucson.org/> to see both the boundaries included in this phase of the project, and also the process for making application.

On Sunday I joined the Mayor and several thousand other Tucsonans at Hi Corbett Field to participate in the Tucson Has Heart event that served as both a memorial to the January 8th victims as well as a testament to the character of our community. In last weeks edition of The Tucson Weekly, Renee Downing ran a piece about language, grammar and figures of speech. The one highlighted is called a metonym. That is "talking about one thing by naming something else." The example used was speaking about "the White House," not to describe the building, but to reference the political activity and decisions being made



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords
(D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Bob Walkup
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

there. The point was that since January 8th, people in other areas of the country may refer to "Tucson" in the context of the tragic events of January 8th (what do you think of when you think "Oklahoma City", or "Waco?") You get the idea. My point, and Renee's, was that "Tucson" does not deserve to be a metonym relating a tragic shooting. The Tucson Has Heart event screamed that truth. We have a lot to be proud of in the way we have come together and moved forward beyond the ugly events of early in the year. As we move ahead, the rest of the Country would do well to emulate us, and think of the character and unity we reflect as a community when they hear "Tucson" being referenced.

Finally, we have adopted a pilot project directed at getting our arms around the graffiti problem that exists throughout our community. I have attached to this newsletter a frequency map that shows by area how many 'tags' were reported throughout the City last year (see page 4). What we are doing is targeting the most highly 'tagged' area, making note of the moniker's we find in that area, tracking them to other parts of the city and identifying the vandals who are responsible. The effort is to put the most prolific 'taggers' out of business by working the high volume areas. The tools we have provided TPD to initiate this project are going to be important as we move ahead in working towards a solution to this community wide problem.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6



Mayor Walkup and Council Member Kozachik at Hi Corbett Field to participate in Tucson has Heart.

Ward 6 Office Closure

Furlough –Friday, February 18

Presidents' Day –Monday, February 21

Tucson Carnival Dancing in the Streets

On Saturday, Feb. 19, 1:00pm - 8:00pm, at Armory Park, 220 S. 6th Avenue, the 4th Annual Tucson Carnival will light up downtown Tucson with the full spectrum of colors, sounds, rhythms, flavors and talent that our community so wonderfully represents. Don't miss the parade at 2:00pm where dozens of performers, community groups, and school groups will participate. Enjoy live performances by **Batucaxé**, **Key Ingredients of African Soul**, **Jovert**, **Flam Chen**, **Son y Sol**, **Spirit Familia**, **Planet Djembe**, **Sambatuque**, **Dr. Mojo** and the **Zydeco Cannibals** and **The Carnivaleros!** It's a family-friendly event that is **FREE** and fun for the entire community! Visit <http://tucsoncarnaval.wordpress.com/> or call 520-284-0185 for information.

TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT GRAFFITI INCIDENTS (CLEANED) - CITY WIDE January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

